

REMARKS

Reconsideration and further examination of the subject application, in view of the amendments above and the remarks below, are respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 1 and 22-26 remain pending in the application. Each of these claims is under consideration.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 22-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Peoples (U.S. Patent No. 4,508,771). For the following reasons, this rejection should be withdrawn.

It appears that the Examiner has misunderstood Applicants' argument set forth in the previous response. The argument is that the Examiner appears to be equating the claimed adhesive material with Peoples' thermoplastic barrier layer. The barrier layer, however, does not satisfy the adhesive material of the present claims because it does not contain a blend of ethylene methyl acrylate copolymer and another polymer recited in claim 1.

Peoples discloses that its barrier coating contains (1) a copolymer of ethylene with an unsaturated ester of a lower carboxylic acid, (2) an olefinic elastomer, and (3) a filler. Col. 4, lines 18-25. Neither the elastomer nor the filler is recited in the present claims as the additional polymer. Thus, the Peoples' barrier coating is missing at least one ingredient of the claimed adhesive material.

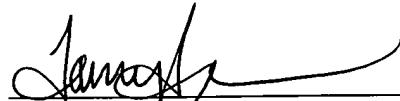
Applicants are not arguing that the claimed adhesive material excludes an elastomer or a filler, which is what the Examiner appears to understand the argument to be.

Since Peoples fails to disclose or suggest each feature of the present invention, there's no *prima facie* case of obviousness, much less one of anticipation. Therefore, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102/103 should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In summary, Applicants believe the application to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejection(s), remove all rejections, and pass the application to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,



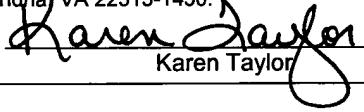
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Karen Taylor

3/29/2006
Date